

STATE MARSHAL AFSCME LOCAL 2193:

Judiciary Committee Public Hearing, March 16, 2015

My name is Mark D'Angelis. I am the president of the State Marshal AFSCME Local 2193.

We support H.B. No. 7004 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASK FORCE TO STUDY SERVICE OF RESTRAINING ORDERS. We appreciate the hard work that the restraining order task force has performed. The task force looked thoroughly and comprehensively into improving the service to domestic violence victims. We agree with many of the task force's finding. One of our members, Marshal Lisa Stevenson, participated as a task force member. Our local agrees with the idea of a police officer delivering orders to households in which it is indicated that a gun is present. Our understanding has been that marshals would continue to deliver service on all other restraining orders. State marshals are licensed, bonded agents of the state. We take our duties very seriously. Of all the duties that we perform, delivering restraining orders is the top priority. State marshals carry out this duty well and with great understanding of the urgency that such service demands. Marshals are assigned twice a day at every courthouse for restraining order duty. We feel that this arrangement is preferable to police officers providing service through a phone call or some "verbal" means, as is mentioned in section 3 of this bill. We have great reservations about police officers giving service verbally. Many of our members oppose this concept. We have committed to working with members of the task force to fully examine and flesh out this issue.

We do have some concern about section 2 of the bill. Section 2 speaks of having various types of copies of the restraining order delivered. Delivering copies might be problematic in that the holder of the original document may not know that a copy has been delivered.

We support the office space in courthouse language of this bill. This allows a marshal to speak privately with the applicants. It would also be very beneficial for state marshals to have access to a fax machine at the courthouse. This would allow us to fax restraining orders to marshals in other counties, allowing for more rapid service.

We very much appreciate the language that provides for mileage reimbursement for up to three trips for providing enhanced (in person) service. This is helpful in that often several trips are required to serve a restraining order to a respondent.

Our local also supports S.B. 651 AN ACT CONCERNING A TEMPORARY HOLD FOR CERTAIN FAMILY VIOLENCE ARRESTEES. This bill provides additional safety for the victims and potential victims of family violence.

Thank you for your consideration and if I can provide any additional information, please let me know.